was in theory organized (1928) on an outline inherited from Sun Yat-sen and had in it many Russian features. It was under the Kuomintang and derived its mandate from the Central Executive Committee and the Central Supervisory Committee elected by the National Congress of that party. In direct control of the government was a Central Political Council of the Kuomintang made up of the membership of these two committees and presided over by a standing committee of the three. This ^as succeeded, in 1937₇ by a Supreme National Defense 1-reference, later the Supreme National Defense Council. Th<- central government had five bodies, executive, legislative, judicial, examining, and controlling (something like the old censorate, for impeaching and auditing), each called a *yuan.* Subordinate to the Executive *Yuan* were the usual ministries and commissions (of interior, foreign affairs, military affairs, navy, finance, communications, industry, justice, education, opium suppression, railways, Mongolian and Tibetan affairs, and famine relief).

-Marked progress was made in framing codes in accord with the ideals of the Occident, so that there might be no longer any excuse for extraterritoriality. The coming of the new laws, however, meant the passing of another feature of the old order. For the time being, an independent judiciary could scarcely be said to exist. The dominance of the military precluded it.

The civil strife and the rule of the military were corrosive forces. Early in the history of the Republic, for instance, the Military Governor overshadowed and eventually usually entirely displaced the Civil Governor. The country was largely carved up among military men, often of very humble origin and poorly

educated, who rose to power out of the general disorder. Such provincial and local government as survived generally existed on their sufferance. At the head of each province was a kind of committee with a chairman. In practice many of the provinces were controlled by military leaders who were largely independent of the national government. After 1926 these war lords were mostly eliminated. Only the Communists remained persistently independent.

Yet remnants of the old organization persisted and it was to these that the country largely owed such order as existed. The old provinces continued, and six additional ones were created